17th December 1956]

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHI : In view of the anxiety felt in the matter, will the Government appoint a local committee to tender advice to the Government whenever the sea advances towards the temple?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : It is a local committee which has been agitating for this. In response to its desire, we have called for tenders and further sent our Engineers. The Engineers say that there is no need for any protection at present. However, as I said, we are sending an expert to investigate into the matter and express an opinion. When his opinion in the matter is available, we will proceed further.

Vesting of more powers in municipal councils

* 104 Q.—DR. V. K. JOHN (on behalf of Sri V. V. Ramaswami) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to accord more powers to municipal councils in this State; and

(b) if so, what they are?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYATCHI : (a) & (b) Attention is invited to the provisional conclusions of Government regarding municipalities as given in section IV of the White Paper on Local Administration.

DR. V. K. JOHN : May I ask whether the Government realize that a Welfare State can be created and promoted mainly through the action of the local bodies?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, it is a hypothetical question. It is not a supplementary question at all. It is only asking for opinion.

Reorganization of district boards

* 105 Q.—DR. V. K. JOHN (on behalf of Sri V. V. Ramaswami) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether the Government have constituted any committee to examine and report on the question of reorganization of district boards in this State?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYATCHI : Yes, Sir. In 1951 the Government constituted a committee of non-officials with Sri K. Kuttikrishna Menon as Chairman for making recommendations regarding the reforms required in the administration of district boards and improving their financial resources so as to make them efficient organs of local administration. The committee submitted its report in 1953 and a copy of it is given in Part II of Appendix II to the White Paper on Local Administration. The provisional conclusions are specified in section III of the White Paper.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Questions are over.